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# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYSTON

HEALTH
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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1960

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Town Hall,
ROYSTON,
Herts.

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

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# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1960

Councillor P. L. Jacklin
Chairman of the Public Health Committee

Dr. V. R. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health

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# ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## 1960 - 1961

### COUNCILLORS:

LADY JOAN NEWMAN
Chairman of the Council

R. J. GAVIN
Vice-Chairman of the Council

A. L. Cain, A.I.E.E.
Miss J. P. Etheridge
H. G. Haddock, J.P.
P. L. Jacklin
W. S. Keatley
Mrs. E. A. King
R. C. Lawrence
G. W. Stevens
E. A. Thompson
R. L. Wilkerson

### OFFICERS:

Dr. V. R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health

D. J. WALKER,
Clerk of the Council

S. M. JACKSON, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.,
Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the
Royston Urban District Council

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the direction of Ministry of Health Circular 1/61 I present an Annual Report for the year 1960.

The local death rate for the year (12.2) is again just above the national figure (11.5). The live birth rate of 17.4 is also above the national figure (17.1) but does not reach the high rate of 1959 (20.0) which followed a considerable influx of new population.

Although the stillbirth rate is above the national figure the local infant mortality rate for the year is seen to be exceedingly favourable.

During the year there was again an almost complete local absence of serious infectious disease.

I would acknowledge the assistance in preparation of the report from Mr. S. M. Jackson, your Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, who is responsible for the sections on sanitary matters. Also I would like to thank your council and its Chief Officer for every consideration and assistance during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Victor R. Walker.

District Medical Officer of Health

June, 1961.

SECTION A LOCAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| Area (in acres) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1,626 |
| Home Population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1960 | 6,080 |
| Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1961 (estimated) | 1,915 |
| Rateable Value (1st April, 1961) .. .. .. .. .. | £95,200 |
| Sum represented by Penny Rate (Estimated 1961-62) .. | £350.-s.-d. |

# EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1960

| | Totals | Male | Female | Royston Urban District | Comparable rate for England and Wales |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate | 102 | 56 | 46 | | |
| (Illegitimate | 4 | 2 | 2 | | |
| (All | 106 | 58 | 48 | | |
| Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | 17.4 | 17.1 |

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births 3.8%

| | Totals | Male | Female | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| STILLBIRTHS (Legitimate | 3 | 2 | 1 | | |
| (Illegitimate | - | - | - | | |
| (All | 3 | 2 | 1 | | |
| Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. .. | | | | 27.5 | 19.7 |

| | Totals | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS | 109 | 60 | 49 |

| | Totals | Male | Female | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DEATHS | 74 | 34 | 40 | | |
| Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | 12.2 | 11.5 |

| | Totals | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 week | 1 | - | 1 |
| (1 - 4 weeks | - | - | - |
| (4 - 52 weeks | - | - | - |
| (All | 1 | - | 1 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Infant Mortality Rates | | |
| Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births .. .. | 9.4 | 21.7 |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 9.8 | |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,00 illegitimate Live births .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 0.0 | |
| Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 9.4 | 15.6 |
| Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) .. .. .. .. .. .. | 9.4 | |
| Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) | 36.7 | |
| Maternal Mortality (including abortion) | | |
| Number of Deaths .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | None | |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births .. .. .. | 0.0 | 0.39 |

Comment on Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year home population again shows a considerable increase (330) on the figure for the previous year. Live births (106) were 9 less and local deaths (74) five more than for 1959.

SECTION B

Provision of Health Services for the Area

No important change took place during the year.

SECTION C SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The whole of the district, with the exception of 8 houses and a small light engineering works in the Eagle Tavern Area, and the Hall, Farm and Cottages on the Burloes Estate, is supplied with water from the chalk, by the Royston Water Company Ltd., by a piped supply of excellent quality. The houses at Burloes are supplied by a private piped supply, also of excellent quality.

Again, as in previous years, water was carted to the premises in the Eagle Tavern area during dry spells.

With the exception of the houses mentioned above, all the other houses in the district are supplied with water direct from the mains to the houses.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations were made during the year and analysis shows the water to be in a satisfactory chemical and bacteriological condition and suitable for drinking.

The supply to domestic and other premises was maintained throughout the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year, increasing difficulties were encountered at the Sewage Disposal Works due to flooding of the irrigation beds from the continual wet weather and increase in the outfall at the works. Also, the surface of the beds were being covered by a hard pad of sludge due to the mineral contents in a trade effluent which was being discharged into the public sewer. This resulted in filtration through the beds being seriously retarded.

The Council called in Consulting Engineers, who considered that the works were now working to capacity and further works would be necessary in the near future.

The Consultants were asked to report on the question, both from the point of view of temporary alleviation of the flooding and as a long term project.

Investigations were commenced into the present flows and conditions of the existing works and into the examination and analysis of trade wastes and other relevant factors, including the possiblities of a site for new sewage disposal works should this be necessary.

Towards the end of the year, measures were commenced to alleviate the flooding and it was anticipated that these would be adequate to keep the works in satisfactory operation for a period whilst the question of the long term policy was decided.

One hundred and three new houses built by private enterprise, and twenty new houses built by the Council were connected to the sewage system during the year. There are thirty four houses in the District which have cesspool or septic tank drainage. Cesspools are emptied once a year by the Council free of charge.

Refuse Removal and Disposal

The cost of refuse removal and disposal for the year amounted to £3,870.

In spite of some labour difficulties, a once weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year.

The search for a new site for a tip was unsuccessful and tipping continued on the existing site.

Maintenance of the refuse tip was continued and advantage was taken to seal the tipping area whenever covering material was available. Treatment by spraying with insecticide was carried out to prevent the breeding of flies.

Regular baiting and poisoning treatments against rat infestation was carried out during the year.

Rodent Control

The Rodent Control Scheme worked satisfactory during the year and the following work was carried out :-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total number of private premises treated | - | 81 |
| Total number of local authority premises treated, including tip | - | 8 |
| Total number of business premises treated | - | 6 |
| Total number of sewer maintenance treatments | - | 2 |
| Total number of premises treated under annual contract | - | 2 |

The total number of inspections made by Officers of the Public Health Department and the Operator during the year was 254, including 6 inspections of agricultural land and 8 block inspections.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area

The details below show the number of inspections made during the year:-

Under the Housing Acts 43

| | |
|---|---|
| Under the Public Health Acts | 194 |
| Under the Factory Acts | 34 |
| Prevention of Infectious Diseases | 4 |
| Milk and Dairies Orders | 8 |
| Food Shops and Stores | 118 |
| Bakehouse Inspections | 6 |
| Prevention of Nuisances | 132 |
| House Drainage | 36 |
| Supervision of Refuse Collection and Disposal | 119 |
| Rats and Mice Destruction | 254 |
| Caravans and Moveable Dwellings | 24 |
| Miscellaneous Inspections | 109 |

Details resulting from the above inspections are as follows :-

| | |
|---|---|
| Statutory Notices served | - |
| Informal Notices served | 92 |
| Notices complied with | 91 |
| Houses demolished | - |
| Houses rendered fit as a result of formal action | - |
| Houses rendered fit as a result of informal action | 50 |
| Houses roofs renewed or repaired | 17 |
| House windows repaired | 21 |
| House chimneys repaired | - |
| House floors renewed or repaired | 18 |
| House ceilings renewed or repaired | 15 |
| House walls (external) repaired or plastered | 2 |
| House eaves gutters renewed or repaired | 24 |
| Internal wall plaster repaired | 22 |
| House drains relaid or repaired | 164 yds. |
| Gullies fixed | 13 |
| Intercepting traps fixed | 4 |
| New sinks fixed | 18 |
| Sinks renewed or repaired | - |
| Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired | 12 |
| W.C. roofs repaired | 2 |
| W.C. pans renewed or repaired | 8 |
| W.C. cisterns renewed or repaired | 29 |
| New baths fixed | 6 |
| Inspection chambers built | 15 |
| Inspection chambers repaired | - |
| New vent shafts fixed | - |
| New F.A.I. fixed | 8 |
| Water service pipes repaired | 31 |
| Dampness remedied | 15 |
| Cooking ranges renewed or repaired | - |
| Hot Water systems renewed or repaired | - |
| Staircases repaired | 2 |
| Blocked drains cleared and cleansed | 46 |
| Accumulations or rubbish removed | 30 |
| Houses disinfected | 3 |
| Bakehouse floors cleansed | 4 |
| Dairies cleansed and limewashed | 2 |
| Bakehouse ceilings cleansed | 4 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Sanitary conveniences at Factories repaired | 6 |
| Sanitary conveniences at Factories cleansed | 6 |
| Sanitary conveniences provided at Building Sites | 10 |

Building Byelaws and Town and Country Planning

| | |
|---|---|
| Plans and applications submitted | 125 |
| Plans and applications withdrawn | 9 |
| Plans and applications approved | 104 |
| Plans and applications disapproved | 9 |
| Plans and applications decision pending | 3 |
| Approved for new estates and houses | 17 |
| Approved for other buildings | 64 |
| Approved for change of user | 4 |
| Approved for advertisement signs | 7 |
| Approved for use of land and for layouts | 18 |
| New houses completed:- | |
| By local authority under Housing Acts | 20 |
| By private enterprise | 103 |
| Other buildings completed | 65 |
| Drains laid to above | 5,920 yds. |
| Gullies laid to above | 249 |
| Connections to sewer | 49 |
| Vent shafts fixed | 94 |
| Inspection of chambers built | 254 |
| Water closets fixed | 140 |
| Intercepting traps fixed | 24 |
| Baths fixed | 123 |
| Sinks fixed | 132 |
| Lavatory basins fixed | 125 |
| Dustbins provided | 123 |

SECTION D

Housing

During the year twenty new traditional brick dwellings were built by the Council and became occupied. All these were for rehousing slum Clearance families.

Twelve were one bedroom bungalows for old persons, and eight two bedroom type houses.

One hundred and three new dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

No requisitioned property is held by the Council.

The number of properties for which Improvement Grants were approved during the year was 10.

Slum Clearance Programme

By the end of the year the Slum Clearance Programme was nearing completion.

The Council were negotiating for the purchase of Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Victoria Terrace and Nos. 7 and 9 Queens Road, with the object of demolition and the erection of old peoples dwellings on the site and on neighbouring land which was also the subject of negotiations to purchase.

The house, No.53 King Street was inspected and information laid before the Council in respect thereof. The offer of the owner to give an undertaking under Section 16 of the 1957 Act was being considered.

A final check was made of the houses in the district and it was established that there were no more areas of unfit houses requiring action.

The completion of the Slum Clearance Programme in the district was therefore in sight.

During the year, 17 families were rehoused from Clearance Areas and houses under Demolition Orders. The total number of persons displaced was 39.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

The method of consultation under this Act was agreed between the County Council as local planning authority and the Urban District Council as licensing authority.

A schedule of existing caravan sities in the District was prepared and all occupiers were advised that they must apply for site licences.

Rent Act, 1957

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued.

SECTION E INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises in the District

The food premises, mobile food vendors, and stalls selling foodstuffs are classfied according to the type in the following list. The total number given will exceed the actual number of premises as many sell various classes of foodstuffs.

| | Shops | Mobile Shops | Stalls |
|---|---|---|---|
| Butchers | 6 | 1 | - |
| Grocers | 17 | 2 | 1 |
| Greengrocers | 7 | 1 | 5 |
| Wet Fish | 3 | - | - |
| Cafes | 5 | - | - |
| Fried Fish Shops | 3 | 1 | - |
| Dealers in Sweets | 20 | - | 1 |
| Dealers in Cakes | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| Dealers in Bread | 4 | - | - |
| Beer etc. (Off Licence) | 1 | - | - |
| Wines and Spirits etc.(Off Licence) | 2 | - | - |

| | Shops | Mobile Shops | Stalls |
|---|---|---|---|
| Public Houses | 12 | - | - |
| Egg Packing Stations | 1 | - | - |

Premises Registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

There are 14 premises registered for the sale of ice cream, together with 3 selling from vans not subject to registration in this District.

Fish fryers 4, with 2 vehicles acting as mobile fried fish shops not subject to registration in this Area.

There is also a factory in this District where sweets are manufactured. This is a branch works of Messrs. Barratt & Company Ltd. of Wood Green, London.

Dairies (Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54)

There are four milk producers in the District, two of whom are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

There are two retail purveyors of milk in the District.

Periodic inspections of dairies were made during the year.

The Council's area is part of the Specified Areas Scheme which requires that only milk of Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised types should be offered for sale.

Two Dealer's Licences were issued in respect of the sale of designated milks and three Supplementary Licences were issued for the retailing of designated milks in the District from premises situated outside the Urban Area.

Inspections of Registered Food Premises

During the year 132 inspections were made to the premises enumerated above, and to other food premises. In the case of the registered premises, there is nothing worthy of comment, all the premises being of a good standard and well maintained.

Educational activity in connection with Foods

There have been no activities such as Lectures, Clean Food Guilds and so on, but in a small community such as this there is a close personal approach between the Officers and the food handlers, and a good deal of informal advise and instruction has resulted in a steady all-round improvement in protection of food in storage, display and general handling.

## Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the District and no slaughtering of animals was carried on in the District during the year.

Meat in butchers shops and fish in fishmongers, has been inspected during the year.

## Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

As required by Section 3(1) of the Act, the Council reviewed the existing and probable future requirements of their district for slaughterhouse facilities.

Before reaching their decision the Council called a meeting with the Butchers, Farmers and Auctioneers in the Urban District and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the National Farmer's Union and the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers.

As a result, the Council were of the opinion that there is no demand for slaughtering facilities in the Urban District at the present time.

This report was accepted by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

## Other Foods

Other food shops were visited and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption on examination and were surrendered and destroyed:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Minced Beef | 54 lbs. |
| Ham | 33 lbs. 13 oz. |
| Steak and Kidney Pie | 1 Pie. |

## Tinned and Packaged Food

| | |
|---|---|
| Jellied Veal | 6 lbs. (1 Tin) |
| Crab | 3½ oz. (1 Tin) |
| Luncheon Meat | 1 lb. 8 oz. (2 Tins) |
| Irish Stew | 1 lb. (1 Tin) |
| Chopped Pork | 4 lbs. (1 Tin) |
| Corned Beef | 15 lbs. (6 Tins) |
| Tomato Juice | 10 lbs. (4 Tins) |
| Victoria Plums | 17 lbs. (17 Tins) |

## Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56

The various requirements under these Regulations continue to be enforced. Washbasins, sinks with hot and cold water, together with the necessary cloths, towels, soap, nail brushes, were in most cases provided in the preceding year, but in this town some of the premises

being hundreds of years old do not lend themselves to the twentieth century standard of food hygiene. Consequently, some firms, faced with comprehensive alteration of premises, have been considering the acquisition of other premises, or with the entire or partial rebuilding of their present premises. A certain amount of delay is thereby occasioned, but the general picture is one of steady improvement.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No intimation of any occurrence of food poisoning was received during the year.

Green Plunge Swimming Pool

Samples of water were taken from the above and the results of analysis showed the water in the pool to be suitable for bathing purposes throughout the season during which the pool was open.

Factories Act, 1937 to 1959

The following table gives the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Form 572 (Revised).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

| Premises | Number of | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. on Register | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| I. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 5 | 5 | - | - |
| II. Factories not included in (I) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority | 34 | 19 | - | - |
| III. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers) | 10 | 10 | - | - |
| Total | 49 | 34 | - | - |

2. Cases in which defects were found

| Particulars | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred | | Number of Prosecutions |
| | | | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1) | 6 | 6 | - | - | - |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Unreasonable Temp. (S.3) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Inadequate vent. (S.4) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | - | - | - | - | - |
| (b) Unsutiable or defective | 6 | 6 | - | - | - |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other offences against the Act | 10 | 10 | - | - | - |
| Total | 22 | 22 | - | - | - |

Outworkers: There are two outworkers reported in the District, employed on the making of "wearing apparel".

## SECTION F

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases

Totals of notified infectious diseases for the whole year (after correction) were: Measles 1, Scarlet fever 1, and Dysentery 2. Apart from dysentery, where precautions against infant school spread were successful before the Christmas holiday, the local incidence of any serious infectious disease during the year is seen to be negligible.

### Immunisation

The measures against whooping cough and diphtheria are increasingly accepted by parents, particularly since children can now have the combined triple vaccine (including tetanus toxoid). There has also been a steady increase in the acceptance of vaccination against anterior poliomyelitis among at least the younger of the priority age groups. Such facilities continue available equally from welfare centres and medical practitioners.

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## TUBERCULOSIS

### New Cases and Deaths during the year 1960

| AGE PERIODS | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 - 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 - 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - 15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 - 25 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 - 35 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 - 45 | - (1) | 1 - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 - 55 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 55 - 65 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 65 and over | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Not known | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 1 (1) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |

* Figures in brackets indicate inward transfers.

Comment: Totals of new notifications are seen to be low, with pulmonary cases completely confined to older age groups.

The one death occurred in an elderly male.

VICTOR R. WALKER

District Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1961.

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